

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-6, 7-13, 15-16 and 19-21 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended as proposed in the Amendment filed January 29, 2002 in the parent application No. 09/341,237. Claims 9 and 13 have been amended as presented in the Amendment filed May 4, 2000 in the parent application. Amended claims 15-16 are identical to the allowed claims in the parent application except that the limitation of "a molecular weight higher than 15,000" has been removed. New claims 19-21 have been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled.

No new matter has been introduced through these amendments.

Amended independent claims 1, 15 and 16 define over the art applied in the parent application as indicated by Primary Examiner G. S. Kishore, PhD, and Examiner S. Tran at the January 23, 2002 Interview. Dependent claims 5-6, 7-13 and 19-20 should be considered patentable over the art applied in the parent application for the same reason.

New independent claim 21 is similar to amended claim 1 except, among other things, that the transitional phrase has been changed from "consisting essentially of" to --comprising--. Claim 21 is believed patentable over the art applied in the parent application, at least, because the art fails to disclose, teach or suggest a carboxylic acid **in an amount sufficient to neutralize** nitrogenous odor-generating components in the excrement, and water soluble film forming polymers **in quantities sufficient to form a solid film** over the bulk of said excrement upon application, thereby greatly reducing the vapor pressure of offensive odor producing compounds and facilitating easy handling of said deodorized excrement, as presently claimed.

Favorable consideration of the pending claims is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to

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facilitate advancement of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE

Please cancel claims 3-4, 14, 17-18 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 5-6, 9, 13, 15-16 as follows:

1. (Amended) ~~Aqueous deodorizing~~ [Deodorizing] compositions for human and animal excrement [comprised] ~~consisting essentially of~~
a carboxylic acid in an amount sufficient to neutralize nitrogenous odor-generating components in said excrement; [acidic agents] and
water soluble film forming polymers in quantities sufficient to form a solid film over the bulk of said excrement upon application.

5. (Amended) Deodorizing compositions according to claim 1, wherein the ~~carboxylic acid is a~~ [acidic agents are] biodegradable ~~carboxylic acid~~ [organic acids or their soluble salts].

6. (Amended) Deodorizing compositions according to claim 5, wherein the ~~biodegradable carboxylic acid is~~ [organic acids are] selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ citric acid, glycolic acid, oxalic acid[,] and polyacrylic acid[s].

9. (Amended) Deodorizing compositions according to claim 1, wherein the water soluble polymers are selected from[:]
~~the group consisting of~~ hydroxyethyl cellulose, polyethylene oxide, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyhydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyhydroxypropyl methacrylate, and poly(meth)acrylamide.

13. (Amended) Deodorizing compositions according to claim 10 [and] ~~or~~ 11, wherein the Limonene is in a concentration range of 0.01 - 0.005% w/v.

15. (Amended) A method of deodorizing [for applying deodorizing compositions to] human and animal excrement, comprising the steps of: [wherein the compositions, according to claim 1, are in form of a spray and are applied by spraying them on the excrement]

spraying an aqueous deodorizing composition on said excrement, said aqueous deodorizing composition consisting essentially of one or more carboxylic acids in an amount sufficient to neutralize nitrogenous odor-generating components in said excrement, and water soluble film forming polymers in quantities sufficient to form a solid barrier film over the bulk of said excrement; and

allowing the aqueous deodorizing composition to dry until the water soluble film forming polymers form the solid barrier film over the bulk of said excrement, thereby greatly reducing the vapor pressure of offensive odor producing compounds and facilitating easy handling of said deodorized excrement.

16. (Amended) A method of deodorizing [for applying deodorizing compositions to] excrement of at least one of livestock, animal and human, comprising the steps of: [wherein the compositions, according to claim 1, are in liquid form and are applied by mixing them together with the excrement]

mixing an aqueous deodorizing composition with said excrement, said aqueous deodorizing composition consisting essentially of one or more carboxylic acids in an amount sufficient to neutralize nitrogenous odor-generating components in said excrement, and water soluble film forming polymers in quantities sufficient to form a solid barrier film over the bulk of said excrement; and

allowing the aqueous deodorizing composition to dry until the water soluble film forming polymers form the solid barrier film over the bulk of said excrement, thereby greatly reducing the vapor pressure of offensive odor producing compounds and facilitating easy handling of said deodorized excrement.